

ScC-SC6 CRP 7.1

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL COMMENTS (arising from ScC-SC6)

STATE OF THE WORLD'S MIGRATORY SPECIES

UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC6/Doc.7.1

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Sessional Committee requests the Secretariat to undertake the following, taking into account, as appropriate, the comments made in the 6th meeting of the Sessional Committee and submitted in writing to the Secretariat by 4 August:

- a) finalize the report presented in the Annex of UNEP/CMS/ScC-SC6/Doc.7.1; and
- b) prepare a document for the consideration of COP14, including recommended actions, a draft Resolution and draft Decisions.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE DOCUMENT

The Sessional Committee was invited to provide feedback with respect to the following questions:

1. First, seeking inputs on possible factual inaccuracies in text, questions about methodology and data sets, or clarifications that may be warranted;
2. Second, on recommendations regarding priority conservation actions underpinned by reports, as called for in Decision 13.26; and
3. Third, on next steps, in order to prepare for discussions by the COP on possible future iterations of this report, including any data gaps to be filled, the report format and possible development into an online tool or a database, as well as the frequency of possible future updates of the report.

A number of comments noted areas for potential clarification to improve the report. Other comments provided a range of views , including on the following:

1. The benefits of considering regional trends that differ from global ones, changes in species range, and the importance of ecosystem integrity;
2. Issues that may deserve particular emphasis as “key messages”, e.g. the declining population trends of Appendix I species, the implications for ecosystem functions and services being lost as a result of migratory species decline including the role of migratory species in responding to climate change, the potential need for further listings on CMS Appendices and the importance of sustained and well-resourced scientifically robust monitoring;
3. The importance of linking this report to the objectives defined in the new Strategic Plan for Migratory Species to be considered by COP14; and
4. The need to link the report to key action agendas beyond CMS, such as national priorities defined in NBSAPs, and global indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

There was a broad consensus on the desire to see a regularly repeated assessment along similar lines, in regular intervals to be determined by the COP (while considering resourcing implications), and to consider options for automated generation of data updates, CMS-branded “dashboard” summaries and similar communication products.